Efficient Handling of Download Requests

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5   A server is capable of receiving large numbers of concur-
rent download requests, establishing TCP sessions with each
client. A copy of the socket of each session, together with de-
scriptor information of the file requested are transferred to a
download manager, and the original connection immediately
10   closed. The connection to the client remains open via the copy
of the socket, which is then converted to a non-blocking socket
by the download manager converts to copy of the socket to a
non-blocking socket, and downloads the requested information to
the client using the non-blocking socket and its own connection
15   to the server. The arrangement is capable of dealing with loads
that would ordinarily overwhelm the server's capability of es-
tablishing and maintaining individual TCP sessions with its
clients. Heavy loads, including bursty peak loads, are handled
gracefully, without causing the server to stall, or to refuse
20   connections.